

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01522 241946Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /081 W
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R 241605Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7598
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ATHENS 1522

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES ARRIVES ATHENS

1. FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES ARRIVED ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
1300 HOURS FEBRUARY 24 BEGINNING TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO
GREECE. IN BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT SAUVAGNARGUES UNDERSCORED THAT
CYPRUS QUESTION MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT BY
DECISIONS TAKEN UNILATERALLY. FRENCH FONMIN EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST
OF FRANCE IN SOLVING CYPRUS REFUGEE PROBLEM AND DUCKED REPORTERS
QUESTIONS ON FRENCH ARMS SALES TO GREECE AND TURKEY.

2. SAUVAGNARGUES SCHEDULE WAS ANNOUNCED OVER WEEKEND BY
GREEK GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE: FEB 24 - WREATH LAYING AT TOMB OF
UNKNOWN SOLDIER, MEETING WITH FM BITSIOS, DINNER GIVEN BY FM
BITSIOS; FEB 25 - CALLS ON PRESIDENT STASSINOPOULOS, PM CARAMANLIS AND

PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT PAPACONSTANTINOU. GOG DID NOT ANNOUNCE
AGENDA OF BILATERAL TALKS, BUT PRESS SPECULATED TWO MINISTERS
WOULD DISCUSS CYPRUS, EEC ISSUES, PROSPECT OF PM CARAMANLIS VISITING
PARIS IN APRIL, AND VARIOUS BILATERAL MATTERS.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01522 241946Z

3. NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT HAS BEEN LOW-KEY. NEWSPAPERS

ROUTINELY REPORTED VISIT OF SAUVAGNARGUES OVER WEEKEND WITH
TA NEA (LIBERAL) CARRYING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN WHICH SAUVAGNARGUES
REFERRED TO FRANCE'S DEPLORING THAT UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS HAVE
NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED. SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO REMARKED THAT FRANCE
CONDEMNED JULY 15, 1974 COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AND THAT
FRANCE FAVORED A NEGOTIATED CYPRUS SETTLEMENT SAFEGUARDING THE NATION'S

INDEPENDENCE, SOVERIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. INTERVIEW
CONCLUDED WITH SAUVAGNARGUES REPEATING THAT FRANCE AND EEC COUNTRIES
ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS IN FINDING JUST
SOLUTION.

4. WEEKEND PRESS ALSO REPORTED FRENCH FLEET VISIT, FEBRUARY 27
TO MARCH 10, TO FOUR MAJOR GREEK PORTS AND FRANCE'S GRANTING
GREECE 125 MILLION FRANC LOAN (25 MILLION AS DIRECT LOAN TO
GOG AND 100 MILLION AS BANK CREDIT --SEE SEPTTEL.).
KUBISCH

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